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water, mosquitoes, fever, rats and other important matters in the campaign of prevention.

The book is a most valuable contribution to the literature dealing with tropical problems, and so simply and clearly presented that even the most technical parts lie within the comprehension of any average reader.

WALTER S. TOWER.

University of Pennsylvania.

Chadwick, F. E. *The Relations of the United States with Spain.* Pp. 610.

Price, \$4.00. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1910.

Admiral Chadwick's book brings together in a form attractive to the general reader the relations of the United States to a country which during the course of the narrative has sunk from the rank of a first to that of a third class power. Especially in the first part of the book great freedom is used in choosing material. Events are discussed in detail which have only a secondary bearing on the relations of the United States and Spain. The discussion of this early period, however, is the most interesting part of the work. The unfriendly attitude of Spain during the American Revolution and the questionable policy of the United States, especially during the administrations of Jefferson and Monroe, are interestingly and accurately reviewed. The relations leading up to the cession of Florida, especially the West Florida dispute, are discussed clearly and well.

A brief review of the less important period from 1821 to 1850 is then followed by a detailed study of Cuban affairs, which forms the greater part of the work. The materials used in these chapters are to a greater extent the sources than in the first part of the book. The discussions are at times tedious, but this can hardly help but be the case when a review of the dreary length of the Cuban insurrections is attempted. There are numerous long quotations from the official documents. One cannot help feeling that the work would have been improved if it had not been so largely written with the shears.

The author finds little to criticize in the attitude of the United States government throughout both the first and second Cuban wars for independence. He maintains also that the Spanish military operations in the island were severely misjudged and that General Weyler especially was too harshly criticized. Many acts of the insurgents, on the other hand, are held to have been unjustifiable even on the plea of military necessity. The work closes with a discussion of the circumstances of the declaration of war.

CHESTER LLOYD JONES.

University of Pennsylvania.

Curtin, J. *A Journey to Southern Siberia.* Pp. 319. Price, \$3.00. Boston:

Little, Brown & Co., 1909.

This posthumous volume, dealing with the customs, religion, folk-lore and myths of the Buriats, stands as a companion volume to the earlier works,

"The Mongols: A History," and "The Mongols in Russia," and is an important contribution to the literature dealing with the Mongol peoples.

The Buriats, the most important group of Mongols surviving to-day, inhabit the region about Lake Baikal. It was through this region that the author traveled in the summer of 1900, learning the native language, in order more easily to understand the people and their life. The first part of the volume is devoted to a brief description of the general features of Siberia, and a more detailed account of the long overland journey in Southern Siberia. The aspect of the country, the people and their modes of life is set forth in a most interesting manner. This journey was not without its difficulties, hardships and dangers, but the results here recorded are worth the price.

About half the book deals with the customs and life of the Buriats, particular attention being given to their ceremonials in connection with the usual four important events, birth, marriage, sickness and death. The most striking single item in this discussion of ceremonies is the prominent part played by the animals of the flocks and herds, from which the people gain their subsistence; another instance of interesting relationship between environment and ceremonial customs. The latter part of the book is devoted to a collection of the folk-lore of the people, which, like all such collections, makes intensely interesting reading, especially as it is possible to trace ideas common to the folk tales of various other primitive peoples.

Numerous illustrations, notes and a map add to the value of a volume which called for extraordinary ability on the part of the author in the collection of the necessary material.

WALTER S. TOWER.

University of Pennsylvania.

ELLIOTT, E. G. *The Biographical Story of the Constitution.* Pp. xi, 400. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1910.

This book undertakes to show the interpretation and development of the Constitution of the United States through the lives, opinions and actions of a number of the most conspicuous leaders in American public life. It includes a general chapter on the "fathers," discussing the work of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and successive chapters on Alexander Hamilton, James Wilson, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, John Marshall, Andrew Jackson, Daniel Webster, John C. Calhoun, Abraham Lincoln, Thaddeus Stevens and Theodore Roosevelt. An appendix reprints a number of important documents bearing on constitutional questions.

As indicated in the preface, the work does not attempt a detailed discussion of judicial decisions, and the author recognizes the difficulties of his method, in tending to overemphasize the part of certain men and of slighting economic and social forces. But, on the whole, the book gives a satisfactory account of the main features of our constitutional history, from a decidedly nationalistic point of view, especially in regard to the period of reconstruction;